

EXECUTIVE ORDER

October 22, 2003

03-16

ESTABLISHING THE GOVERNOR'S NARRAGANSETT BAY AND WATERSHED PLANNING COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Narragansett Bay is inextricably linked to the environmental and economic health of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, efforts to protect and enhance the Bay are most effective if focused on its entire watershed; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island's effectiveness in protecting and conserving the Bay and its watershed areas can be enhanced by strong coordination and communication among governmental and non-governmental entities; and

WHEREAS, a statewide planning and policy framework for Bay issues can improve our efforts to protect and manage the Bay and its watershed areas; and

WHEREAS, the recent fish kills, beach closings, and the continuing presence of unacceptable levels of pollution in the Bay requires the development of both immediate action and a strategic long-term plan for the Bay and its watershed areas; and

WHEREAS, governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations working on Bay and watershed issues are not sufficiently linked by a common vision, commitment, and agreed-upon set of goals; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island's leaders, including the Governor and General Assembly, will benefit from the recommendations of a coordinated and statewide stakeholder advisory process; and

WHEREAS, this advisory process will be further enhanced by the participation of representatives of the federal government and the governments of our neighboring states where a majority of the Narragansett Bay watershed areas are located.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD L. CARCIERI, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations do hereby order as follows:

1. There is hereby established the Governor's Narragansett Bay and Watershed Planning Commission ("Commission") to advise and make recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly for developing a strategic long-term plan for the Bay and its watershed that will address environmental protection, restoration, sustainability, economic development, and socially equitable use of resources. The Commission shall also recommend to the Governor solutions to specific short-term problems as identified by the Governor. The Initial Charges attached as Attachment A to this Executive Order shall guide the Commission's initial work, which will be supplemented as the Governor determines.
2. The Commission shall be comprised of at least twenty (20) members appointed by the Governor. The Governor may appoint additional members at his discretion. It shall be housed at the Coastal Institute at the University of Rhode Island. Membership may include representatives from the General Assembly, non-profit organizations, academic institutions, industry and business organizations, commercial and recreational fishing groups, local government, state agencies, public advocacy groups and representatives from the federal government as well as from the governments of Massachusetts and Connecticut. Members shall serve one-year terms and may be reappointed at the pleasure of the Governor.
3. The Governor shall appoint a Chairperson who will serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
4. There shall be established a Steering Committee comprised of the Commission Chairperson, the Director of the Department of Environmental Management, the Chairperson of the Coastal Resource Management Council, the Executive Director of the Economic Development Corporation, and the Executive Director of Save the Bay. The Steering Committee's function shall include:
 - a. establishing the agenda of the Commission;
 - b. providing administrative support; and

- c. coordinating the work of the Commission and any workgroups established by the Commission.
- 5. The Commission shall meet at least quarterly at times designated by the Steering Committee and shall report its findings and recommendations regularly in writing to the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President of the Senate at times designated by the Commission or directed by the Governor.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon the date hereof and shall remain in effect until terminated.

So Ordered:

Donald L. Carcieri

Date